THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (d) Nationalised Banks generally engage full time/part time sweepers/ scavangers for their branches/offices in Bombay. A few banks have entrusted the work, generally in respect of the high rise buildings, to specialised agencies. A few others including Bank of Baroda, employ scavengers on lump sum payment basis in addition to sweepers. Such staff if working for more than 6 hours a week, are entitled to the benefits of Provident Fund, gratuity, earned leave etc. in terms of the bipartite settlements.

Policy on import of Gold by Jewellers

2049. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the existing policy only some jewellers are eligible to import gold against their export commitments;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the nagative, what are the details of other categories of gold importers;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a big difference exists in the prices of gold in the international market and in the domestic market; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Gold is allowed to be imported by HHEC or other nominated public sector agency against exports of gold jewellery and articles.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Average price of gold, per 10 grammes in Bombay & London markets were as under:

Year	Bombay Market Price (in Rs.)	London Market Price (in Rs.)
1988 . . .	3202	1947
1989 . . .	3186	1989
Jan., 1990 . .	3383	2236

Gold Reserve with R.B.I.

2050. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the gold reserve with Reserve Bank of India has increased during the last five years;

(b) if so, what was the gold stock with R.B.I. at the end of each financial year during the above period and its value at international rates during that period;

(c) what is the quantity of gold seized during the above period, yearwise;

(d) whether Government contemplate to auction the seized gold; and

(e) whether Government propose to issue import licence for import of gold to curb gold smuggling and bring down domestic price of gold?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Data on gold reserve of RBI and its value at the international rate